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ABSTRACT

At the request of the Council for Cultural Co-operation (CDCC) a 3-year plan (1989-1991) for EUDISED was drawn up by the Secretariat. The plan envisages that: (1) the EUDISED database will concentrate on educational research project information; (2) the rate of growth for the database will increase from 1,000 items a year to 2,500; (3) four issues of the "EUDISED R&D Bulletin" will continue to be published annually, each issue containing as at present some 250 entries; and (4) the EUDISED thesaurus will be updated regularly. The CDCC took note of the plan and gave its approval to the current database production procedures. (Author/BBM)

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COUNCIL FOR CULTURAL CO-OPERATION

EUDISED: THREE-YEAR PLAN

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Abstract

At the request of the Council for Cultural Co-operation (CDCC) a three-year plan (1989-1991) for EUDISED was drawn up. The plan envisages that (1) the EUDISED database will concentrate on educational research project information; (2) the rate of growth of the base will increase from 1000 items a year to 2500; (3) four issues of the EUDISED R & D Bulletin will continue to be published annually, each issue containing as at present some 250 entries; (4) the EUDISED thesaurus will be updated regularly. The CDCC took note of the plan and gave its approval to the current database production procedures.

EUDISED descriptors

data bank; educational research; EUDISED; planning; thesaurus

EUDISED
European Documentation and Information System for Education

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Forty years. Council of Europe
Quarante ans Conseil de l'Europe

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THREE-YEAR PLAN FOR EUDISED

At its 55th session (January 1989) the Council for Cultural Co-operation (CDCC) "instructed the Secretariat to draw up a three-year action plan with the help of two or three experts and to submit it to its June 1989 session."

In consequence, the Secretariat convened a meeting on 16 March 1989 which was attended by Elfriede Tajalli (Austria), Fiora Imberciadori (Italy) and Seamus Hegarty (UK). Armin Gretler (Switzerland) sent his apologies for absence.

In its deliberations the group took account of the evaluation report prepared by Johan van Halm (document CDCC (88) 32), document DECS/Doc (80) 24 which summarised the work of the Educational Documentation and Information Policy Group set by the CDCC at its 35th session (March 1979), and comments from EUDISED national agencies.

EUDISED database

The group concentrated on the database aspect of EUDISED. It was of the opinion that the aim should be to achieve by the end of 1991 an annual input of 2,500 educational research entries to the EUDISED database. The current annual rate is 900-1000 entries. The group was of the opinion that an annual rate of 2,500 entries was realistic provided that national agencies had access to appropriate resources to carry out efficiently their task of collecting and preparing educational research data.

In the opinion of the group

- the EUDISED R & D Bulletin should continue to be published by Saur Verlag, but each issue would be limited to 250 entries; additional entries (that is in excess of 1000 over a series of four issues of the Bulletin) would appear only in the online version of the database. It would, in consequence, be necessary for national agencies to distinguish between (1) data for inclusion in the Bulletin and in the database and (2) data for inclusion only in the base;

- the computerisation of EUDISED data would have to continue to be done under contract by an outside company, the Council of Europe's Computer Division being unable to take on the work involved;

- the technical and linguistic editing should continue to be contracted out to SVO (Institute for Educational Research in the Netherlands);

- online access to the EUDISED database should continue to be the responsibility of the Information Retrieval Service of the European Space Agency (ESA/IRS).

The group was of the opinion that the database should concentrate on educational research project information and that, in consequence, there should be no attempt to extend coverage of the base to EUDISED AV (audiovisual teaching materials) and EUDISED EP (educational periodicals).

As for information concerning the CDCC's own products, the group noted that the technical possibility to include such information in the base had existed for a number of years, but was of the opinion that this was a matter for the Secretariat itself to sort out. It felt that such information would be a useful addition to the base, and that such a development could only have a positive effect on the dissemination of the CDCC's work.

The group reaffirmed its support for the basic principles on which EUDISED was established - multilingualism and decentralization.

Now that 23 countries have contributed data to the EUDISED base the group felt that efforts should be concentrated on increasing the quality and quantity of the information contributed by those countries rather that on seeking additional members of the EUDISED data network group. New members would, of course, be welcome. It was suggested that closer co-operation be sought between the EUDISED data network group and the meetings of researchers organised periodically by the CDCC, in particular the meetings of directors of educational research institutions. The group was of the opinion that the situation in many national EUDISED agencies whereby just one person dealt with EUDISED matters, often on a part-time basis, was not conducive to an improvement in quality.

Every effort should be made to ensure that information offered for inclusion in the EUDISED database was available in machine-readable form. Machine-readable data being much cheaper and quicker to handle.

EUDISED thesaurus

The group envisaged that management of the thesaurus would lead to a situation whereby an update would be published annually and a fully revised edition every four years. Management would continue to be a joint activity of the Commission of the European Communities and the Council of Europe. New language versions of the thesaurus would not be actively sought, but they would be welcome. The development of special subthesauri was not considered urgent.

At its 55th session the CDCC asked for "an estimate of the volume of educational research activities in each country", and also "an estimate of the amount of educational research data which could be supplied to the Secretariat (by what means ? at what dates ?).

A number of countries are not able to make an accurate estimate of the quantity of research carried out nationally. The best estimate available is that given in Armin Gretler's memorandum (document CDCC (88) 42).

The date when information can be submitted to the Secretariat varies greatly according to national circumstances. The Federal Republic of Germany, for example, submits data in bulk once a year; the Netherlands approximately 40 items every three months; the contributions of some countries are irregular depending upon when educational research data becomes available.

The CDCC asked, furthermore, for "a detailed statement of the implication for the Secretariat as regards the processing and dissemination of the data".

The computer processing of one EUDISED entry submitted in type-written form currently costs £9.30 to which is to be added £3.15, if the entry is printed in the EUDISED R & D Bulletin. The computer processing of an entry submitted in machine-readable form costs £1.45 to which is to be added £31.50 per tape/disk and £3.15 if the entry is published in the EUDISED R & D Bulletin. In consequence, the computer processing cost of 100 type-written entries published in the Bulletin amounts to £1,245, and that for 100 machine-readable entries on one tape £491.50. In the case of machine-readable data (at present submitted by Austria, France, FR Germany and shortly the UK) the CDCC will have already financed the development of software to ensure that the data can be used in the EUDISED context.

The aim to increase the annual input of educational research data to 2,500 items per year by the end of 1991 will have financial implications. The introduction of information concerning CDCC publications into the base will be in addition to the 2,500 educational research items and, in present circumstances, the information will be in type-written form.

Dissemination of the EUDISED R & D Bulletin is undertaken on behalf of the CDCC by Saur Verlag. This involves no additional cost for the CDCC, but there are no royalties on the first 750 subscriptions. At present, the number of paid-up subscribers is approximately 500.

Dissemination of the online version of the EUDISED database is undertaken by ESA/IRS. Each master copy of the EUDISED tape supplied to ESA/IRS costs the CDCC £80.50. Four such tapes are usually sent in the course of a year. Royalties received for the period July-December 1988 totalled FF2,539.20.

The introduction of information concerning CDCC publications into the EUDISED database will necessitate the creation of a "full-text service". That is, someone who has identified the existence of a CDCC publication through searching the online base will have the possibility to purchase a hard copy or microfiche version of the full text. Such a service, an essential back-up to an online base, will involve a major revision of the Secretariat's approach to dissemination.

Council for Cultural Co-operation
56th Session (Strasbourg, 20-23 June 1989)

Extract from document CDCC (89) 25 meeting report

EUDISED

Three-year action plan (CDCC (89) 16)

The CDCC took note of the three-year action plan (CDCC (89) 16) and its aim to achieve an annual input of 2,500 educational research entries to the EUDISED database by the end of 1991; it approved the following lines of action:

1. The EUDISED R & D Bulletin should continue to be published by Saur Verlag, but each issue would be limited to 250 entries; additional entries (that is in excess of 1000 over a series of four issues of the Bulletin) would appear only in the online version of the database. It would, in consequence, be necessary for national agencies to distinguish between (1) data for inclusion in the Bulletin and in the database and (2) data for inclusion only in the base;

2. The computerisation of EUDISED data should continue to be done under contract by Peter Peregrinus Ltd. (PPL), the Council of Europe's Computer Division being unable to take on the work involved;

3. The technical and linguistic editing should continue to be contracted out to SVO (Institute for Educational Research in the Netherlands);

4. Online access to the EUDISED database should continue to be the responsibility of the Information Retrieval Service of the European Space Agency (ESA/IRS).

The Danish and the Finnish delegations stated that they had not received the doc. CDCC (89) 16 in time for preparing their position in full consultation with institutes involved in their respective countries. These delegations felt that doc. CDCC (89) 16 was not a proper action plan, because it did not contain a detailed timetable and did not specify the number of contributions likely to be received from the different countries over the next three years.

The Danish delegation said that despite its reservations about the EUDISED database, it would continue to contribute input, and expressed its satisfaction with the EUDISED thesaurus.

The CDCC instructed the Secretariat to ensure that the necessary contracts, in particular those with PPL and SVO, would be finalised and signed without further delay. It expressed the hope that cooperation be continued with the above institutions. In order to take account of the Danish and Finnish observations, it also instructed the Secretariat to prepare a more detailed report for the next meeting.

The Representative of the European Community, Mr John Richardson, stressed the very positive experience with joint management and updating of the EUDISED Thesaurus by both the Council of Europe and the Community. He made it clear that regular updating would not necessarily result in a new Thesaurus publication every four years; publication intervals might have to be somewhat longer. He also underlined the fact that the EUDISED database covering educational research data constituted a useful supplement to the Community's educational policy database (EURYDICE).

The delegation of Austria suggested a debate on the role of the Documentation Centre for Education inEurope at one of the next meetings.